

approved \$400,000 in emergency relief funding for Caribbean countries devastated by this year's hurricanes.

The Food and Agriculture Organization is not alone in its effort to fight hunger. Last month, the Senate Hunger Caucus, which I cochair with Senators DOLE, LINCOLN, and SMITH, met with Ambassador George McGovern and the Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Program, Jim Morris, to discuss international hunger. We know it is possible to feed the hungry and improve the lives of millions of impoverished people around the globe. An additional \$13 billion each year, for instance, could meet the most basic health and nutritional needs of the world's poorest people. It is a modest amount compared to the 25,000 lives lost to hunger each day.

Several years ago, Ambassador McGovern and the former Senator Bob Dole called for an international school feeding program. They recognized that we can fight hunger among children in the world's poorest countries while also sending them to school. This idea, which became the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program, is one of the single best policy ideas I have ever heard. We know that poor children and families often do not have enough food to eat. We also know that poor children are less likely to go to school. But, by providing food as an incentive to attend school, we are able to provide fuel for the bodies and minds of these children.

I am pleased that the Senate Appropriations Committee accepted my request to increase funding for the McGovern-Dole program to \$100 million in the fiscal year 2005 Agriculture Appropriations bill. It is a simple step toward ending an epidemic that leaves children with bloated stomachs, emaciated faces, and underdeveloped minds—an image that I will never forget after seeing the devastation first hand in some of these developing nations.

As we celebrate World Food Day and the progress of the Food and Agriculture Organization and other groups on the front lines in the battle against hunger, let us remember the substantial work that remains. I hope this day will spur us on to achieve the vision of a time when abundant food is available to every human being. I look forward to working with other members of the Senate Hunger Caucus toward that goal.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and as an Alaskan, I welcome this opportunity to discuss a problem my State has been combating for decades.

In 2002, more women per capita were killed by men they knew in Alaska than in any other State. During the last 5 years, over 18,000 domestic violence charges have been filed in Alaska,

and this statistic does not include incidences where a woman decided not to press charges. Since 1976, Alaska has ranked in the top five States for the highest rate of rape per 100,000 total inhabitants.

The epidemic domestic violence and sexual assault rates in Alaska constitute a serious public crisis and our State is dedicated to finding solutions for this problem. In the spirit of that commitment, I helped organize a summit with the Department of Justice to discuss the unique challenges that Alaska faces. The summit provided a forum for law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, governmental entities, health personnel and advocates to come together to openly discuss the multiple issues associated with this crisis. The summit covered a wide range of topics, including the role of responders to domestic violence, the best practices to implement in communities and the identification of training needs.

The summit gave different entities the opportunity to convene, collaborate, and openly discuss solutions that will help us prevent domestic violence and sexual assault. The summit was a solid first step in an ongoing effort in our State.

There are no simple solutions to the problem of domestic violence, but we do know that education and programs that take a proactive approach can help turn the tide on this issue. This year I secured several earmarks in the CJS appropriations bill in response to the domestic violence problem that Alaska is facing. Funds will be provided to the State of Alaska for a sexual assault/domestic violence prosecution unit. Funds will also be available for a new domestic violence prevention project to allow for a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of domestic violence cases. Money was also attained to offer services to victims whose lives have been impacted by violent crime.

Addressing the public crisis posed by domestic violence and sexual assault is a two-front effort. On one front, we are working to meet the immediate needs of the victims of these crimes, ensuring they have the resources they need to recover. On the other, we are working on the long term goals of raising awareness and educating the public. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a vital part of that effort.

In many cases, victims of domestic violence wrongly believe they are responsible for what has happened to them. We must work to alter the social stigma associated with being a victim of domestic violence. That stigma belongs to those who commit crimes, not their victims. By taking care of victims, prosecuting offenders, and educating the public about this issue, I believe we can begin to end a serious problem that has plagued our communities and our citizens for far too long. Many of my colleagues have pledged their support in this effort, and I look

forward to working with them on additional solutions to address this problem.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President I rise today to mark the beginning of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, NDVAM and to acknowledge the tenth anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA. NDVAM began in 1987 as a way to draw attention to the problem domestic violence. Seventeen years later, domestic violence is still a blight in our communities. As such, we must do what we can to combat domestic violence. A timely reauthorization of VAWA is a critical step in this effort.

Ratified in 1994 as title IV of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, VAWA established protocol and discretionary grant programs that are managed by the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services. As indicated by Congressional Research Service reports, grants administered by DOJ aid law enforcement, establish and operate training programs for victim advocates and counselors, and train probation and parole officers who work with released sex offenders. Grants provided by the HHS fund shelters for battered women, rape prevention programs, and community programs on domestic violence. Grants also provide funding for efforts to reduce sexual abuse of runaway and homeless street youth.

VAWA also finances and annually publishes a series of reports on the methods of assessing and preventing gender-related crimes. The findings of these studies are used to develop existing programs and create new ones in areas that require more attention. As a result, VAWA's efforts have initiated critical changes in Federal laws regarding interstate stalking, intrastate domestic abuse, the rules of evidence concerning the use of a victim's past sexual behavior, and HIV testing in rape cases.

Additionally, VAWA instituted a pilot program for safe custody exchange for families of domestic violence, as well as a domestic violence task force. These initiatives greatly enhance the enforcement of protective orders across state lines. Without VAWA's assistance, battered women who relocate to other states would be extremely vulnerable, as would these States' resources.

Despite the enormous strides the VAWA has made for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, Native American women still experience the highest rate of violence of any group in the United States. This is of particular concern to the Lakota, Nakota, and Dakota tribes located in my home State of South Dakota. A Department of Justice report titled, "American Indians and Crime," found that Native American women suffer from violent crime at a rate three and a half times greater than the national average. Researchers also estimate that this number is actually much

higher, as according to the Department of Justice, over 70 percent of sexual assaults are never reported. Many Native American women remain silent due to cultural barriers, a high level of mistrust for white dominated agencies, and a history of inactivity by state and tribal agencies to prosecute crimes committed against Native Americans.

Furthermore, it is important to address the fact that police and courts tend to ignore cases of violence involving Native American women, due to alleged confusion between Federal and tribal jurisdictions. Cases involving a non-Native American perpetrator and a Native American victim fall under Federal jurisdiction. Tribes do not have criminal jurisdiction over nontribal members even for crimes committed against Native women on the reservation, and regrettably, States are not effective enough in enforcing tribal protection orders. Fortunately, VAWA provides victims with access to critical resources by establishing key grant programs that improve the criminal and civil justice systems' response to victims, as mentioned above. However, even with the best efforts of antiviolence advocates, law enforcement officials and judicial personnel have yet to reach everyone in need of assistance. Despite the successes of VAWA, Native American women are still at greater risk of becoming victims of violence, and the jurisdictional issues they face only further complicate the problem.

On the tenth anniversary of the VAWA, I call on my colleagues to continue supporting this important piece of legislation. Its contributions to society, while unfinished, are essential to combating abuse against women.

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN REGULATIONS REGARDING SENATORIAL SUITE SELECTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise to announce that in accordance with Title V of the Rules of Procedure of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, the committee has updated the senate regulations on senatorial suite selection effective October 7, 2004.

Based on the committee's review of the 1992 regulations which allow members up to 24 hours to select a Senatorial office suite, the Committee on Rules and Administration has concluded that its regulations should be updated to facilitate the speedy and smooth transition of assigning Senatorial office space. This update includes changing the allowable time for suite selection from 24 hours to eight hours. The Committee on Rules and Administration has also streamlined the process for the submission of office layout plans to the Architect of the Capitol. The timeframe for submitting such layouts to the Architect of the Capitol has been amended from two weeks to one week.

The amended regulations, as adopted appear below:

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION, UNITED STATES SENATE REGULATIONS ON SENATORIAL SUITE SELECTION

Adopted by the Committee on Rules and Administration, September 20, 1988, Amended June 17, 1992, Amended October 7, 2004

The following policy will be in effect for suite selection by Senators following the general elections in November:

1. As in the past, seniority will determine the order of selection of suites.

2. Suite selection will begin promptly after the election.

3. The only opportunity for suite selection by each Senator will occur when he or she is contacted by the Rules Committee.

4. Selection will consist of only those suites available at the time of contact by the Rules Committee.

5. Senators shall inform the Rules Committee of the decision on suite selection within 8 business hours (9 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday through Friday) after contact by the Rules Committee. Failure to respond within 8 business hours will be deemed a decision not to move, unless an extension beyond the 8 business hours is approved by the Chairman of the Rules Committee.

6. Senators shall submit an approved office layout to the Office of the Architect of the Capitol within one week after a suite is assigned. (This action is critical because reconfiguration of partitions, telephones, and computer terminals are dependent upon the office layout.)

7. Senators shall be expected to begin moving into the newly-assigned suite not later than two days after notification that the suite is ready for occupancy.

8. In considering whether to move, Senators should take into consideration the following requirements:

a. Modular furniture will not be moved. If a Senator with an office containing modular furniture selects a suite without modular furniture, traditional furniture will be assigned. In cases where modular furniture is in place, changes in suite configurations should be kept to a minimum.

b. A Senator's computer equipment will move to the new suite. The central processing unit will be initially installed in the location where the previous occupant's CPU was located.

c. If a Senator from a "large" state elects to move, the extra space due that state may not be contiguous. Committees will not be forced to relocate in order to provide contiguous space. The Rules Committee will seek to locate the extra space in a contiguous area, but it may not be possible with most suite choices. It should also be understood that the Rules Committee will not know where the extra space due a "large" state will be located until after all 100 Senators have selected a suite. Then and only then will it be possible for the extra space to be assigned.

9. Senators from California will be assigned the two largest suites in the Hart Building as they become available. The choice between the two suites is to be made by the California Senators. These offices will then be permanently removed from the pool of available suites for assignment.

10. Every effort will be made to expedite moves, including the employment of temporary staff. However, the reconfiguration of partitions, furniture, telephones, and computer terminals requires seven to ten days. It is also desirable to repaint while the suite is vacant.

11. Each Senator (returning and newly-elected) will be informed of this policy immediately after the general election in November.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, back in June the Senate took a strong step to support intellectual property on the Internet by updating the Government's most important tool in the fight against piracy: its enforcement authority. Unfortunately, the Bush administration, which likes to talk a good game, is apparently not interested in having the tools it needs to do the job. This administration has done nothing, as far as I know, to help enact important intellectual property legislation. As a consequence, congressional Republicans are holding up and resisting important legislation.

The Protecting Intellectual Rights Against Theft and Expropriation Act, S. 2237, allows United States Attorneys' Offices to bring a civil action against a large-scale copyright infringer. For some unimaginable reason, the Justice Department, which cannot issue enough press releases about its newly-minted Intellectual Property Task Force, has taken no interest in or action on this legislation. Apparently, the Ashcroft Justice Department rejects having the law enforcement authority to stop large-scale infringers and protect America's intellectual property from piracy. A Justice Department that has reinterpreted treaties and contorted the law to claim vast and unfettered authorities for this executive has little interest in assembling legislatively enacted tools for copyright protection and to stop piracy.

For a number of reasons having to do with law enforcement priorities, resources and other considerations, prosecutors rarely decide to bring criminal charges even against flagrant infringers. I have encouraged the Department to be more aggressive both internationally and here at home and have praised them when they have acted against infringers. I have worked hard to provide additional resources to our international efforts.